



JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman
Tomio Muto

*Published by the Commission on Public Relations
of the National Christian Council of Japan*

Editors:
Chuzo Yamada
Ronald G. Korver.

CABLE CODE: JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS: CHRISTIAN CENTER, 2,4-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates: Japan ¥700; Foreign (Sea mail) \$2.00; (Air mail) \$3.50.

No. 202

February 15, 1962

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US-JAPAN CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION

A joint US-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Cooperation and Exchange was held from January 25 through January 31 at the Foreign Office in Tokyo. The conference was the last of three meetings agreed to by U.S. President J. F. Kennedy and Japanese Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda when the two met in Washington D. C. last June. The first of these meetings was concerned with economics and the second dealt with scientific matters. Such talks are to be held annually to put relations between the two nations on a full partnership basis.

The Japanese delegation, led by Tatsuo Morito, president of Hiroshima University, included several Christians; Genji Takahashi, president of Meiji Gakuin University and elder of Takanawa church in Tokyo; Teiji Takagi, president of Tokyo Women's College, member of the Japan Academy and member of Osaka church; Shintaro Fukushima, president and publisher of the Japan Times, and Masatoshi Matsushita, president of Rikkyo (St. Paul) University.

The American delegation was headed by Dr. Hugh Borton, president of Haverford College, and included Ambassador Edwin O. Reischauer; Aaron Copeland, composer and conductor; Robert Penn Warren, Pulitzer Prize winning author; Philip H. Coombs, Assistant

Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, and Sterling McMurrin, U.S. Commissioner of Education.

The discussions took up intellectual interchange through exchange of persons, through exchange of materials and in the arts, area studies, language teaching, and institutional relationships.

On the last day a joint communique was issued which said that, "the language barrier has been the most serious obstacle to successful cultural and educational interchange," and that a "massive effort" must be applied to the solving of this problem. The communique agreed that the proper role of governments is "to facilitate, not control, and that maximum initiative and autonomy should be left to private individuals and organizations," in exchange activities. (Does this principle apply to church-to-church relations?) The communique also recommended that "relatively greater emphasis be given to young people of demonstrated ability....." The Japanese delegates were an average of 15 years older than the Americans.

Dr. Matsushita, writing in the Yomiuri News, the largest daily in Tokyo, noted in one of a few articles he wrote during the course of the conference, that the talks were carried on in a very "friendly atmosphere." He gave two reasons for this "friendly atmosphere;" one was that participants were people who understood both countries fairly well, and the second reason was that the meetings dealt with education, art and sports, but omitted religion. Dr. Matsushita stated that he believed that religion as well as art was an important means by which the spiritual make-up of a people was understood. He suggested that delegates to the next conference be selected from among those who are not too familiar with each other's country, and that religion be included in the discussions. The article claimed that if this were done the next conference would not be held in such a "friendly atmosphere," but that there would possibly occur some of the "cultural shock" spoken of by delegate Warren.

JAPAN AND KOREA TO EXCHANGE YOUTH TEAMS

Emphasizing the importance of the efforts made by the Y's of Japan and Korea to increase the fellowship between Japanese and Korea, a plan to work toward reconciliation between Japan and Korea by exchanging teams of Christian youth leaders was announced by the Youth Commission of the National Christian Council of Japan, following its National Youth Leaders Conference at Izu, February 6-8, 1962.

According to the proposal, a team of eight Japanese youth leaders will go to Korea in early summer to visit churches, meet with young people, and talk with church officials. During the summer, a team of five Korean youth leaders will be brought to Japan for a similar series of contacts with Japanese youth and church members.

Members of the Leaders Conference observed that the churches of Japan and Korea are "neer together but far apart." They are

near together geographically, separated only by the Japan Sea, but they are far apart emotionally, separated by the deep gulf of misunderstanding which stems in a large part from Japan's occupation of Korea from 1904 to 1945.

But the present-day youth do not necessarily share the feelings of their parents, according to youth leaders attending the conference. Concerned with the theme, "The United of Youth in Christ," the young people decided that the place to start was in relationships with Korea - in establishing relations between the Christian young people of the two countries; in reconciliation of adults in the Churches; in deepening fellowship with Koreans in Japan, often living under conditions of discrimination.

The Annual Youth Week, to be held in May under the sponsorship of the National Christian Council, will stress fellowship between Korean and Japanese youth resident in Japan.

A Korean pastor, Rev. Kuni Ahn, who has been studying at the Tsurukawa Southeast Asia Rural Leaders Training Course, told the Conference about current conditions in Korean church and social life. Delegates reported on recent international meetings, including the Asian Baptist Youth Assembly, the World Youth Conference, the World Council of Churches Assembly, and the World Student Christian Federation.

FILM FOR TV EVANGELISM COMPLETED

TV broadcasting, private and government, began in Japan in 1953, and has made fantastic advances to where there are now 139 stations, more than 7-million sets and about 90% of the people watching TV every day. Japan has regular color TV broadcasts and is advancing faster in this area than any country in the world.

Recognizing the tremendous influence which this medium has on the minds and lives of the people, the Audio Visual Activities Commission of the National Christian Council of Japan (AVACO) has plans to establish a television studio for production of television programs, videotapes and elements of programs to be broadcast by television companies and has just completed the filming of the first of its planned series of thirteen films for use in television broadcast in Japan. Entitled in English, Abundant Life, the story centers around the experiences of a young, newly-married, Japanese couple, Giro and Keiko. Soon after their marriage they discover that Keiko has leukemia and cannot live long. Keiko, in despair, turns to prayer. She becomes an inspiration to all as she bears her affliction with joy.

Negotiations are in progress for the use of the film on television in the Tokyo area during the Easter period. AVACO hopes to produce at least two more of the series of thirteen during 1962. Five films have been underwritten at \$ 5,000 each, and funds are being sought for the rest.

Producer of the series is Matthew S. Ogawa. Director, cameraman, the actors and various of the other crewmen were selected from

among professionals of long experience in the production of TV and other dramatic films. The story of the completed film is by Vern Rossman, and the script by Satomi Shimazaki and Chigusa Kobayashi.

REFORMED THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The sixth Reformed Theological Conference will be held at the Osaka Christian Center on March 6-7. The theme for the meeting is "The Reformed Doctrine of Church and State." Lectures will be given by Rev. Arch B. Taylor, Jr. on "Biblical Perspectives on the Relation of the Church and State," Rev. John Hesseling on "Reformation Views of Church and State," Rev. James Phillips on "Doctrine of Church and State as seen on the Continent and in England in 17-18th Centuries," and Rev. Mrs. Tamaki Uemura on "Church-State Issues in Modern Japan."

As there is evidence of a definite movement towards a return of the Yasukuni and other shrines to government subsidy and management, Church-State issues have taken on special significance as evidenced by Church and Study Group of the Kyodan's Evangelism Research Department's selection of the "Emperor System" as its study problem and the decision of the Social Affairs Committee of the Kyodan to "preserve the nation's peace constitution."

An invitation has been extended to all pastors and missionaries who are interested in Biblical and historical theological studies and their implications for the Christian witness in Japan by the planning committee which is composed of Harriet A. Johnson, Sec., Don McCall, publicity, P.L. Palmore III, arrangements, and Woodward D. Morriss, chairman.

RETREAT FOR MINISTERS AND LAYMEN

The Japan Christians' Retreat Committee, following in "the wake of the Tokyo Crusade," will hold its first retreat for ministers and laymen at Sanmaiso, Hakone, from March 20 to March 23.

The committee chairman is Rev. Tameichiro Kanai, president of Japan Biblical Theological Seminary; co-vice-chairmen are Akihi Kurumada, head of the Japan Evangelical Federation and Tosaji Obara, pastor of the Yodobashi church of the Kyodan. There are 30 committee members including Takeshi Muto, NCC Moderator.

Dr. Bob Pierce of World Vision, Dr. Paul Rees, also of World Vision, and church leaders of Afghanistan, will be present at the retreat.

About 500 are expected to attend. The cost is 2,000 yen (\$5.55) for ministers and 3,500 yen (\$9.65) for laymen.

